Poetry Explication

Explicating a poem requires more than a cursory reading. You’ll have to read, reread, and rerereread the poem. You’ll take a magnifying glass to it, so to speak. Your explication should answer the following questions in about a page or so:

1. What literary devices do you notice?
2. Who is the speaker?
3. What factual information can we *infer* from the poem (be sure to include what is not directly stated)
4. What is the mood? Tone? What words/phrases clue you in to the mood/tone?
5. What is the overall effect of the poem? What might the author want his/her reader to get from it?

Remember the notes on the board for the William Carlos Williams’ poems? That was a whole-class explication. Your job is to turn that same process into a piece of writing.